

# MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

## U.S. Embassy, Manila, The Philippines

June 9, 2014

*THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION THROUGH THE EMBASSY WARDEN SYSTEM AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD.*

### **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) Coronavirus Information and Resources**

The U.S. Embassy would like to inform U.S. citizens that the World Health Organization (WHO) and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have recently published information and guidance for travelers to affected areas in the Middle East. We urge anyone travelling to Middle East to take this information into account.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has published travel advice on MERS for persons on pilgrimages: <http://www.who.int/ith/updates/20130725/en/>; additional information may be found on the WHO website regarding Coronavirus infections: [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus\\_infections/en/](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/coronavirus_infections/en/).

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has also published guidance for travelers to countries in or near the Arabian Peninsula, including specific recommendations for health care workers: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/coronavirus-saudi-arabia-qatar>. Healthcare providers should be familiar with infection control recommendations for patients with MERS: <http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/mers/infection-prevention-control.html>.

Additional information about MERS can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/CORONAVIRUS/MERS/INDEX.HTML>.

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The Embassy is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, Manila, Philippines and is open 0730-1600, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (+632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizen Services (ACS) unit or with the Embassy Duty Officer (for calls outside of normal business hours). You can also contact the ACS unit through email at [ACSInfoManila@state.gov](mailto:ACSInfoManila@state.gov) or through the [Embassy Facebook page](#). Please visit [our website](#) for information on all services offered by the ACS unit.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the [Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#) at [www.Travel.State.Gov](http://www.Travel.State.Gov). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State [Department's website](#), where you can find current [Travel Warnings](#), including the [Travel Warning for the Philippines](#), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the [Country Specific Information for the Philippines](#). For additional information, refer to ["A Safe Trip Abroad"](#) on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), and download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips.